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Alisa A. Harbin  
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1 Mar 1999  
Date

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Michael Houghton et al.

Serial No.: 08/441,443

Group: 1815

Filed: May 15, 1995

Examiner: M.Zeman

For: NANBV DIAGNOSTICS

**AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action, mailed September 1, 1998, in the subject application with a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on December 1, 1998. Accordingly, a petition for a three-month extension of time to respond to the Office Action is requested, and the fee therefor accompanies this response. Reconsideration of the subject application in light of the following amendments and remarks is respectfully requested.